

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Radio Address – Michigan's economic future

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Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

In the past week, three Michigan companies have announced the expansion of their operations here – expansions that will create 700 jobs in the immediate future, with the potential of a thousand additional jobs in years to come.

Job announcements are always great news, but what makes this particular news so exciting is that it gives us a glimpse at Michigan's economic future.

First of all, in Auburn Hills, an auto supplier called Marisa Industries is creating more than 220 new jobs.

They chose to expand their manufacturing facility in Southeast Michigan instead of creating those jobs at a competing site in Kentucky.

In Kentwood, Michigan, the personal care and medical product company Surefil is establishing a new headquarters and manufacturing facility, creating 270 new jobs – and we won this in competition with a number of other states.

And in Greenville, Michigan, we have a success story to share there, as well.

Greenville was devastated in 2004, when its largest employer, Electrolux, decided to outsource all of its manufacturing jobs to Mexico. But the city of Greenville didn't throw in the towel. And neither did my administration. We went to work looking for new opportunities for those citizens who lost their jobs, and, just a few days ago, high-tech manufacturing officially returned to Greenville.

An alternative energy company, United Solar Ovonic, announced that it would create 200 new jobs and build a new high-tech facility. The company chose to expand in Michigan over South Carolina, thanks to assistance from the state of Michigan and the city of Greenville. And they're prepared to create an additional thousand jobs in Greenville over the next few years.

Individually, these three jobs announcements are great examples of employers choosing Michigan because of our highly skilled workforce, our competitive business climate, and our excellent quality of life. But, when you look at these announcements together, they also paint an exciting picture of Michigan's economic future.

But – because of our state's proud and historic concentration of manufacturing jobs, we are more affected than any other state in the country by unfettered free trade agreements that make it easy to ship manufacturing jobs overseas. Despite the manufacturing job losses that we have seen in

Michigan due to outsourcing in a global economy, though, Michigan is starting to create the 21st century replacement jobs that will not be outsourced.

Now, why are we seeing these results? Because we have the most comprehensive economic plan of any state in the country – and it's starting to have an impact, like those jobs that were announced this week.

My administration is committed to doing everything possible to make this diverse economic future an economic reality. From signing \$600 million in targeted tax cuts for manufacturers that create jobs here, to attracting new high-tech employers to Michigan through our 21st Century Jobs Fund, we are focused on diversifying our economy and creating thousands of new jobs for our citizens.

Thank you for listening.